

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /104 W

----- 054353

P R 121656 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9172

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10262

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, VS, VN

SUBJ: FRENCH RELATIONS WITH DRV, GVN, AND PRG

REF: PARIS 10139

1. IN ABSENCE OF QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIAN AFFAIRS BOLLE, EMBOFF SAW HIS DEPUTY ARIOLA TO EXPRESS US CONCERN OVER GOF ANNOUNCING GOF/ DRV JOINT COMMUNIQUE PRIOR TO GOF/ GVN AGREEMENT ON RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. ARIOLA SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD BEGUN WITH BOTH GVN AND DRV AFTER SIGNATURE OF ACT OF PARIS, AND EACH CONTACT HAD PROCEEDED AT ITS OWN PACE. HE NOTED THAT GVN FONMIN LAM HAD INDICATED IN HIS SAN CLEMENTE STATEMENT TO THE PRESS HIS COMPLETE AWARENESS OF FRENCH EFFORTS, AND GOF THOUGHT GVN WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED BY PRIOR RELEASE GOF/ DRV JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ARIOLA WOULD NOT DISCUSS REASONS FOR DELAY IN ISSUING GOF/ GVN COMMUNIQUE, BUT ALLOWED THAT ABSENCE FROM VIETNAM OF PRESIDENT THIEU AND LAM HAD PROBABLY NOT HASTENED AGREEMENT. ACCORING TO ARIOLA, LAM HAD NOT CONSIDERED FRENCH INTENTIONS CONCERNING STATUS OF PRG OFFICE IN PARIS AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO RESTORATION OF AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL RELATIONS BETWEEN GOF AND GVN. ARIOLA REPEATED BOLLE' S STATEMENT THAT HE COULD NOT SAY PRECISELY WHEN

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GOF/ GVN COMMUNIQUE MIGHT BE RELEASED, BUT HE HOPED AND EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD BE SOON.

2. ARIOLA HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO ADD TO BOLLE' S STATEMENT THAT THE QUESTION OF CHANGE OF NAME OF PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN PARIS HAD BEEN RAISED, PRESUMABLY BY PRG. IT WAS STILL NOT DEFINITE THAT NAME WOULD INDEED BE CHANGED NOR THAT NAME CHANGE WOULD INDICATE GREATER STATUS FOR PRG IN FRANCE. HE SAID THAT THE MATTER HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE GVN, AND GOF HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT GVN HAD NO GROUNDS FOR ALARM ON THIS SCORE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE FRENCH MAY BE PRESENTING DISTORTED PICTURE OF THEIR ACTIONS TO PUT THEM IN MOST FAVORABLE LIGHT, WE THINK BEST MEANS OF HASTENING GOF/ GVN AGREEMENT IS FOR GVN TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE.

IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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